

Marriages & Marriage Dissolutions

Marriages

In 2004, 19,174 marriages occurred in Kansas, an increase of 2.4 percent from the 2003 total of 18,722 marriages. ([Table 58](#))

The greatest number of marriages (3,619) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Geary county had the highest marriage rate of 20.4 marriages per 1,000 population. Cheyenne and Greeley counties had the fewest marriages (8) and Cheyenne had the lowest marriage rate (2.7). ([Table 58](#), [Figure 36](#))

The Kansas marriage rate in 2004 was 7.0 marriages per 1,000 population, which was 14.6 percent lower than the 1995 rate of 8.2. The 2004 rate was 5.4 percent lower than the estimated U.S. rate of 7.4 marriages per 1,000 population. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 38](#))

More wedding ceremonies were performed in June (12.6 percent) than any other month in 2004, with May and July being the second and third most popular months. ([Figure 40](#))

First-time marriages for both partners made up more than half of the marriages in Kansas for the fifth consecutive year. In 2004, 53.8 percent of all marriages involved first-time partners. ([Table 60](#), [Figure 2](#))

Kansas couples are delaying marriage. In 1995, 11.9 percent of the brides and 4.6 percent of the grooms were under 20 years of age. However, in 2004, 8.9 percent of the brides and 3.4 percent of the grooms were under 20. ([Table 61](#))

The average age of all brides in 2004 was 29.9 years and that of grooms was 32.1 years. Women marrying for the first time averaged 24.8 years while first time grooms averaged 26.9 years. Of those persons who remarried during 2004, women were, on the average, 39.7 years old and men were 42.4 years of age. ([Figure 41](#))

Marriage and Marriage Dissolutions (Cont.)

Marriage Dissolutions

Note: The tabulation of divorce statistics is impacted by the completeness of reporting by District Courts in Kansas. Despite efforts to assure 100 percent reporting compliance, it has been determined by the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics that not all divorce and annulment certificates have been filed with the Center. The Center is unable to estimate how incomplete the reporting is. Users of marriage dissolution data should exercise caution before making any conclusions based on these data. The Center is obligated to report the data it collects, but recommends that any marriage dissolution data findings be accompanied by a statement that totals may not represent 100 percent of this vital event due to under-reporting.

In 2004, 8,759 marriage dissolutions (8,455 divorces and 304 annulments) occurred in Kansas, an increase of 1.3 percent from the 2003 total of 8,644. ([Tables 59 and 62](#))

The greatest number of marriage dissolutions (2,601) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Coffey county had the highest marriage dissolution rate (13.2) per 1,000 population. Haskell and Kiowa counties had 3 marriage dissolutions in 2004. The lowest rate was in Haskell County with a marriage dissolution rate of 0.7 per 1,000 population. ([Table 59](#), [Figure 37](#))

The Kansas marriage dissolution rate in 2004 was 3.2 marriage dissolutions per 1,000 population, which was 25.6 percent lower than the 1995 rate of 4.3. The 2003 and 2004 rates are the lowest since 1969. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 39](#))

Kansas has generally reported a higher marriage dissolution rate than the U.S. for most years since 1951. However, Kansas' rate in 1995 (4.3) was lower than the U.S. rate (4.4) for the first time since 1951. The Kansas rate in 2004 (3.2) was 13.5 percent lower than the U.S. rate (3.7). ([Figure 39](#))

The ratios of marriages to divorces for Kansas and the U.S. were both roughly 2 to 1, with Kansas at 2.2:1 and the U.S. at 2.0:1. ([Tables 58 and 59](#))

The most common age-group of wives involved in marriage dissolutions in 2004 was 25-29, while for husbands it was the 30-34 age-group. For couples of the same age-group, the most common age-group was 25-29. ([Table 62](#))

The average age at marriage dissolution in 2004 was 36.4 years for wives and 38.7 years for husbands, as compared to 34.4 years for wives and 36.8 years for husbands in 1995. ([Figure 42](#))

In 2004, 40.6 percent of marriages ending in divorce or annulment lasted four years or less. ([Table 63](#))

There were 8,084 minor children affected as a result of marriage dissolutions in 2004. At least one minor child was reported in over half (51.1 percent) of the marriage dissolutions. ([Table 64](#), [Figure 43](#))